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REMARKS

Claims 1, 6 and 13 have been amended. Claims 1-19, as amended remain in the application. No new matter is added by the amendments to the claims.

Applicants amended Claim 13 to correct a typographical error.

In the Office Action dated February 28, 2003, Paper No. 4, the Examiner rejected Claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by the U.S. Patent No. 4,862,334 issued to Ivey et al. The Examiner stated that the Ivey et al. patent discloses a hollow light housing comprising: two halves (10 and 11) having an upper light portion with a lens opening formed therein; the upper light portion having a downwardly facing upper groove 47 formed therein at an upper end thereof and upwardly facing lower groove 47 formed therein at a lower periphery of the lens opening; a lens assembly 51 sized to close the lens opening and having an arm with an upwardly extending tongue 55 formed thereon engaging the upper groove; the lens assembly having a downwardly extending tongue 55 formed at a lower end thereof engaging the lower groove; the lens assembly being releasably retained in the lens opening wherein the arm is deflected downwardly upon an application of force in a downward direction to release the upwardly facing tongue from said upper groove permitting the lens assembly to be removed from the lens opening.

The Examiner rejected Claims 5-11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Ivey et al. patent in view of the U. S. Patent No. 5,177,404 issued to Cohen et al. The Examiner stated that the Ivey et al. patent discloses the claimed invention except for the lamp assembly having a plurality of bulbs and switch assembly for turning the lights on and off, and that it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to provide the plurality of bulbs of switch assembly of the Cohen et al. patent for the lamp assembly of Ivey et al. in order to increase or decrease the amount of illumination distributed in the room.

The Examiner objected to Claims 3, 4, 12 and 13 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but stated that they would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 1-19 define a "utility" light which is a portable unit moved to and from work sites as needed. In contrast, the Ivey et al. patent shows a lamp assembly fixed to a bathroom ventilator installed in a ceiling. The Cohen et al. patent shows a recessed lighting fixture that is

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mounted in a ceiling. Applicants amended independent Claims 1 and 6 to clarify that the hollow light housing is portable.

Applicants also amended Claims 1 and 6 to further define the lens engaging upper and lower grooves as opening toward one another and extending transverse to a longitudinal axis of the light housing. A "groove" is defined as a long narrow channel. The "grooves" identified by the Examiner as being shown in the Ivey et al. patent are notches or recesses 47 opening away from, not toward, each other. The tabs 55 on the lens 12 simply pass through the notches 47 and engage the flange notch 32 in the grille flange 30.

Clearly, the cited references do not show or suggest either a portable light housing or the lens engaging upper and lower grooves defined by the amended claims.

The Examiner stated that Claims 14-19 are allowable.

The Examiner stated that the prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to Applicants' disclosure. According to the Examiner, the other references of record disclose inventions which are similar to Applicants' invention. The Examiner cited the U.S. Patent No. 2,899,542 issued to Mauro; the U.S. Patent No. 3,380,770 issued to Risley; the U.S. Patent No. 3,671,739 issued to McCain; the U.S. Patent No. 4,432,043 issued to Yuen; and the U.S. Patent No. 4,460,947 issued to Kelly. Applicants have reviewed these references and found them to be no more pertinent than the prior art relied upon by the Examiner in his rejections.

In view of the amendments to the claims and the above arguments, Applicants believe that the claims of record now define patentable subject matter over the art of record. Accordingly, an early Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.